

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE <b>MONTHLY REPORT OF</b> <b>RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>		<b>HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:</b> <b>Pocatello, Idaho</b>
		<b>REPORT FOR:</b> <b>MONTH: September YEAR: 2004</b>
<b>TO:</b>  Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>  Sherrie Hebert (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)	
		<b>DATE</b> October 9, 2004
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).		

**X**

**An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.**

Eastern Idaho remains in a now six-year drought at the close of the 2004 Water Year as precipitation amounts were below normal and reservoirs held at or near record low levels. Although precipitation amounts were greater for the 2004 Water Year than they have been for some time since the drought began in 1999, they continued to be below normal.

### **Other Hydrologic Interests**

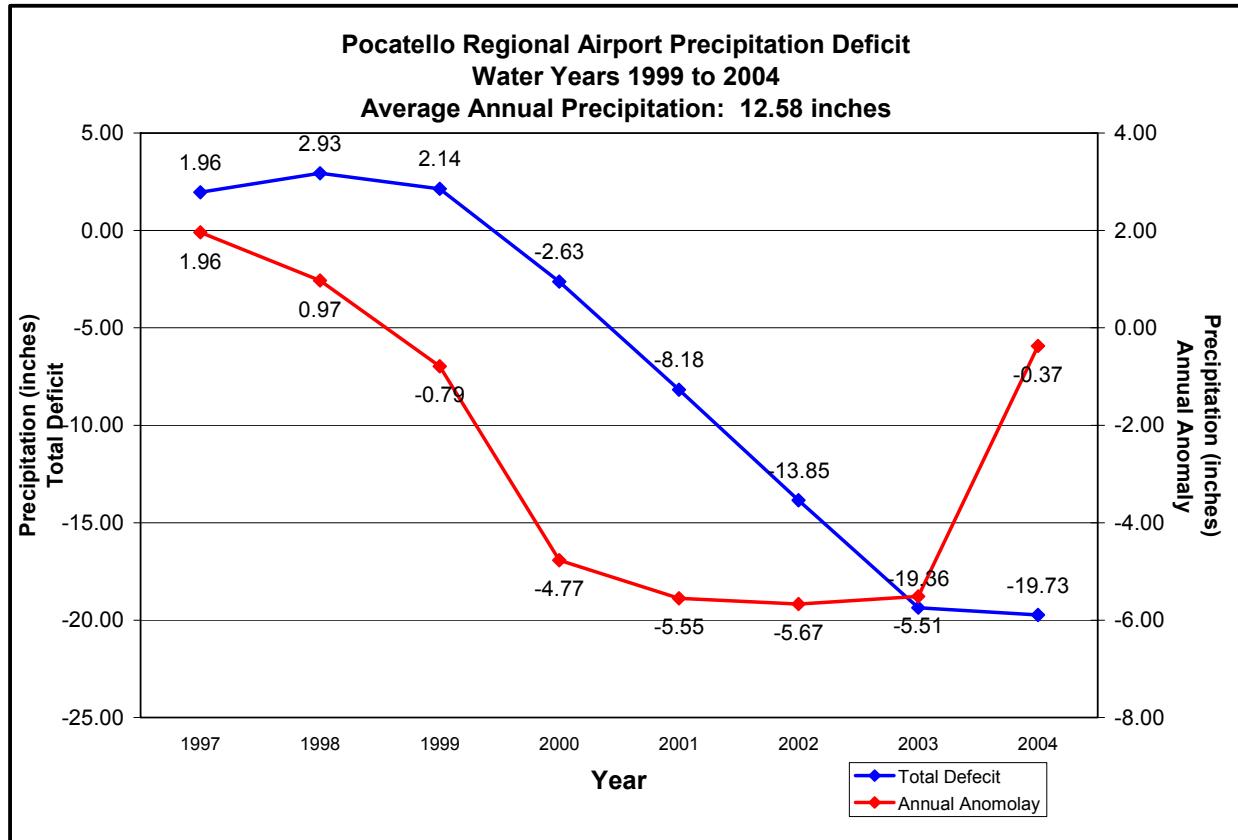
#### **Precipitation**

September precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 88.4% of normal for 41 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. More than 88% of the Pocatello HSA stations received 100% or greater than normal September precipitation, with four receiving at least 140%, which are below.

<b>Station Name</b>	<b>Precipitation (inches)</b>	<b>Normal (inches)</b>	<b>Percent of Normal</b>
Hamer	1.62	0.60	270.0
Lifton Pumping Station	1.55	1.01	153.5
Tetonia	1.86	1.26	147.6
Blackfoot FD	0.99	0.68	145.6

Stanley received the least with a trace of precipitation and Malad was 32.3% of normal with 0.31 inches.

The Pocatello WFO received 0.85 inches, 89% of normal, with the 2004 Water Year ending at 97.1% of normal. Since the drought began in 1999, the total precipitation deficit is 19.73 inches, greater than 1.5 times the annual precipitation average of 12.58 inches; an obvious contributor to the region's low reservoirs. The graph on the following page depicts the deficit for Water Years 1999 to 2004.



Overall, Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) values for Eastern Idaho's 2004 Water Year ended from below normal to much below normal. Most values tied the 2002 and 2003 Water Years. The Big and Little Lost and Bear River basins were the lowest with SWSI values of 4.0 each.

Basin	2004 SWSI	Most Recent Year with Similar Value
Big Wood	-2.6	1991
Little Wood	-1.6	2003
Big Lost	-4.0	2002
Little Lost	-4.0	2002, 2003
Snake at Heise	-2.6	2002, 2003
Oakley	-3.1	2001, 2003
Bear River	-4.0	2003

## **Reservoirs**

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 10% of capacity<sup>1</sup>, down 4% from September 10, 2004.

<b>Reservoir</b>	<b>% Capacity August 31<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>% Capacity September 30<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>% of Average<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>% of Last Year<sup>3</sup></b>
American Falls	6	4	-2	14	207
Blackfoot	4	4	0	7	96
Henry's Lake	65	66	1	78	95
Island Park	32	25	-7	50	251
Little Wood	24	11	-13	48	100
Mackay	1	1	0	4	33
Magic	7	5	-2	16	110
Oakley	10	6	-4	20	221
Palisades	29	24	-5	36	122
Ririe	45	32	-13	60	104
Lake Walcott	80 <sup>4</sup>	31 <sup>5</sup>	-49	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), October 8, 2004; (2) NRCS, August 31, 2004; (3) NRCS, September 30, 2004; (4) BOR, September 10, 2004; (5) BOR, October 8, 2004.

## **Drought**

Eastern Idaho continues to rank entirely in the D3, "Extreme" and D4, "Exceptional" categories on the US Drought Monitor. Low soil moisture, low SWSI values and above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation outlooks leave little to no room for relief in the near future.

Current Emergency Drought Declarations for 2004 include all 17 Eastern Idaho counties of the 24 declared statewide. The first county declared was Clark County on April 14 and the most recent being Minidoka County on September 22.

## September 2004 Hydrologic Product Summary

<b>Product</b>	<b>Number Issued</b>
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Flood Statement	0
Hydrologic Statement	0
Hydrologic Outlook	0
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
Local Storm Report related to flooding	0

cc: Melissa Smith, WFO Hydrology Program Manager  
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